

## REPORT.

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### GENTLEMEN:

In compliance with the Ordinance of March 1st, 1828, "relating to Public Schools," the Commissioners thereby created submit to the Council the following Report:—

This ordinance makes it their duty "to report annually on the first Monday in January, to the City Council, all and every thing respecting said schools, that may be proper or necessary to be known; with an account of the expenditures of the past year, and an estimate of the expenses for the ensuing year."

The ordinance directed the establishment of six male, and six female schools, on the Monitorial Plan; without, however, providing any adequate means for their organization and support. This disproportion between the duties devolved upon the Commissioners, and the means furnished for their accomplishment, appears to have presented itself to the Council at their last annual session, in such a manner, as to call for further legislation. The remedy designed by the supplementary ordinance of April 1829, for the dilemma in which the Commissioners were placed by the original ordinance, was not in the provision of funds to sustain the schools called for by that enactment, but in giving them authority to establish, at their discretion, "one or more." Even under this modification of their duties, the board hesitated as to the propriety of proceeding to establish a School or Schools. For it seemed desirable, that if any were instituted, one, at least, for males, and one for females, should be simultaneously organized in the eastern and western parts of the city: and the whole amount of funds yet at their disposal was the pittance received from the Treasurer of the State, as the City's distributive share of the school fund for the years 1825,—'26,—'27 and '28, in the hands of the Commissioners of Finance, and amounting in all, only to fourteen hundred and thirty-one dollars and forty-one cents. But the time was fast consuming, allotted by the act of Assembly, as the period within which the city might secure for herself the independent organization of her Public School System, free from other legislation than her own; and the appropriation of her revenue to the instruction of her own population. The Board, therefore, conscious of the magnitude of the trust committed to them, and at the same time aware of the anxiety with which a large portion